

Main Street Project

web
MainStreetProject.org

phone
612-879-7578

fax
612-879-7567

office
2104 Stevens Ave. S.
Minneapolis MN 55404

mail
P.O. Box 80066
Minneapolis MN 55408

August 25, 2011

Ms. Marlene H. Dortch
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, D.C. 20554

Re: MM Docket No. 99-25 (LPFM Proceeding)

Dear Ms. Dortch:

On behalf of Main Street Project and 4 other organizations based in the Twin Cities, I'd like to submit this letter in support of the FCC's proposal to dismiss translator applications in its LPFM proceeding.

Main Street Project is a grassroots cultural organizing, media justice and economic development initiative working to break down barriers. We're located in Minneapolis, Minnesota and work primarily with low-income communities of color and youth. Two of the core values that guide our work are the belief that all people deserve to participate in all aspects of community life and that everyone has a powerful story to tell.

Some of the more impoverished neighborhoods in Minneapolis suffer from the stigma created by mainstream media when the only issues covered in those neighborhoods are related to crime. Phillips is a neighborhood in south Minneapolis where we work closely with other organizations. Recently, Peavey Park (based in Phillips) was named the most dangerous park in the Twin Cities by a local TV station. This type of coverage, though consistent, only tells a small fraction of the real story.

This summer we participated in a mural program that brought together over 40 youth of color to produce two murals in the Phillips neighborhood. The murals reflected the challenges and opportunities that youth saw in their community. At a community unveiling, youth leaders were able to express the process they undertook, the significance behind the mural and the significance of the program to them as individuals. A positive story of leadership development went unnoticed by local media.

Minneapolis needs low-power FM in order for us to reclaim the official story of the neighborhoods that we live in. We have one of the largest concentrations of urban American Indians, Somali refugees, and Latinos in the Phillips neighborhood alone. These neighborhoods and others across the Twin Cities deserve diverse media for its diverse communities.

We support the FCC's proposal to dismiss translator applications in order to save more channels for community radio in Minneapolis.

Respectfully submitted,

Steven Renderos, Media Justice Program Director
Main Street Project

We see possibilities.

Main Street Project

web

MainStreetProject.org

phone

612-879-7578

fax

612-879-7567

office

2104 Stevens Ave. S.
Minneapolis MN 55404

mail

P.O. Box 80066
Minneapolis MN 55408

Margaret Kaplan
Minnesota Center for Neighborhood Organizing

Sam Buffington
Frogtown Neighborhood Council

Nolan Morice
Line Break Media

Ned Moore
La Asamblea de Derechos Civiles

We see possibilities.